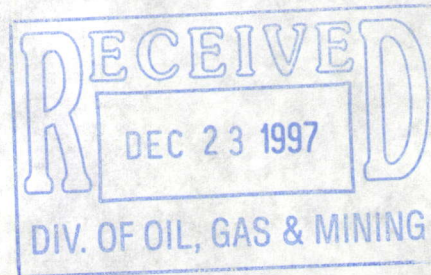


File

72/003/031



William L Bown
Utah Building Stone Supply
842 West 400 North
West Bountiful, Utah 84087
801-295-0601

D. Wayne Hedberg
State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining
1594 West North Temple
Suite 1210
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5810

Dec. 17, 1997

Dear Wayne:

I am enclosing a copy of mine and my father's response to a request by BLM area manager Margaret Wyatt for additional information pursuant the Grouse Creek NOI. I have also enclosed a copy of the decision in United States v. Jay Bown and Preston Bown et al for your review and reference. A like copy accompanied our response to said request for additional information from BLM.

I am in receipt of a faxed copy of the Divisions' initial review of the Grouse Creek NOI, and have been in contact with Lynn Kunzler concerning the specifics of the technical concerns outlined. I will attend to these immediately and forward them to the Division as soon as possible. I have noted the Jan. 5, 1998 deadline.

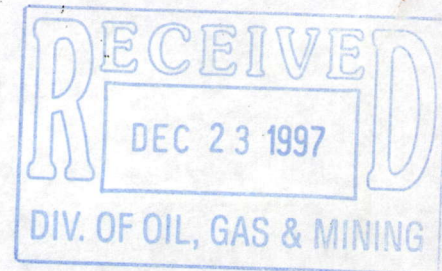
If you should have any questions regarding this additional information or the accompanying decision in U.S. v. Bown et al please give me a call.

Sincerely,

William L Bown

m/003/031

William L and Preston E. Bown
Utah Building Stone Supply
842 West 400 North
West Bountiful, Utah 84087



Ms. Margaret Wyatt - Area Manager
USDI-BLM
Salt Lake District Office
2370 South 2300 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84119

Dec. 15, 1997

Dear Ms. Wyatt:

In accordance with your request for additional information pertaining to the Grouse Creek Plan of Operation, the following is hereby submitted for your review and consideration.

1. We do accept the acreage estimate as shown on the "area map" prepared by UDOGM with respect to area roads which have been designated as mine roads. We realize it to be an estimate.
2. The "Windy Ridge" claim will indeed be impacted by mining activities as defined by the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act and subsequent regulations. Specifically, this claim will be utilized for the removal of "Rembrandt Rock", a grade of relatively thin, color varied, lichen flecked stone that we market as wall hangings, decorations and curios. The area is accessed by the existing designated multiple use road which intersects the claim. (Please see area map) The method of removal will be individual, by hand loading of the pieces onto four wheel drive trucks for transport out of the area. This method by BLM definition would be "casual use".
3. We are certain that we cannot be more specific with reference to our mining methods than those defined in the Draft Reply Outline. If those definitions are lacking in detail please refer to specific requests for detail as we can think of none. Our reference to grades and classifications is strictly incident to marketing strategies that we employ. The more thorough the grading system, the more marketable the material. This principle is basic to any supply/demand scenario.

3. continued

With respect to coloration, the subject material is without peer. There are a multitude of shades and blends that are graded within certain parameters of overall hue either individual or in combination. This allows for greater diversity in the market. We have several grades within these color blend parameters including dark blend, medium blend, light blend, white and also "Rembrandt"blend. We also do custom color grading.

Thickness grading is as follows;

1" minus

2" minus

2"-4"

Ledgestone

European stack

We also do custom thickness grading

Surface size grades are as follows;

6" X 6"

Pavers; any configuration resulting in 1-2 sq. ft.

Treads; rectangular pieces minimum 1' X 2'

Slabs; any configuration resulting in 2-4 sq. ft.

Sheets; any configuration resulting in greater than 4 sq. ft

The diversity in coloration and piece size in boundless supply allows for customizing of all grading.

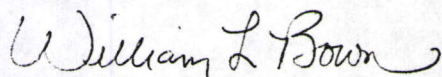
4. There are almost limitless uses for the subject material. We are the producers of the product. It's ultimate use is not our primary area of pursuit. This determination is principally left to the imagination of the customer. However, the fact that we have years of experience with the removal of the material has enabled us to realize a number of it's uses. These include, but are not limited to fireplaces, walls, chimneys, and other facade veneering. Walkways, stair treads, garden paths, pool decking, paneling, rock scapes, pictures and murels, stove pads, window sills, coping, cap stones, memorials, divider-partitions, archways, flooring, tile, garden and interior benches, coffee tables, end tables, lamp stands, and other indoor/outdoor furnishings, etc.
5. We feel it is quite impossible to comply with the March 31, 1997 final rule as listed in the federal register in the next 15 days, or even within the next several months. Final reclamation acreages etc. will not be known until a field examination can be completed and subsequent bond amounts established. Has BLM considered it's option to defer to UDOGM with reference to the bond issue?

In your letter you state that it is your ("our") opinion that we are proposing to mine common variety mineral materials under the auspices of the mining law. We note your opinion. We have here enclosed a copy of the decision in United States v. Jay Bown and Preston Bown for your examination and reference. This case dealt specifically with the exact mineral materials and sources which are apparently at issue with you now. Perhaps your office is not aware of this case and subsequent findings of fact and conclusions of the law.

It may interest you to know that no points nor facts and findings that lendt themselves to the outcome of this case have changed. The source or deposit is the same. and the material found therein exhibits the same unique and special qualities now as then. It is an interesting side light that immediately following the outcome of this case BLM approached Preston Bown offering him their assistance in the process required to patent his claims in the area.

We would appreciate your response following your examination of this case.

Sincerely



William L Bown



Preston E. Bown

EXHIBIT 1

- Quarry Areas
- Quarry Access Roads
- Public Roads

